

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1132

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, PINR, UR, US

SUBJECT: "LIT GAZ" ACCUSES CIA IN SHADRIN CASE

SUMMARY: LITERATURNAYA GAZETZ, AUGUST 17, CARRIES AN ARTICLE ACCUSING THE CIA OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF NICHOLAS SHADRIN AFTER HE HAD DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

1. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA OF AUGUST 17 PUBLISHES A FULL-PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "WORN OUT HORSES ARE SHOT, AREN'T THEY" ("THEY SHOOT WILD HORSES, DON'T THEY?"), BY GENRIKH BOROVIK, AND SUB-TITLED "ABOUT A VIENNA OPERATION OF THE CIA." IT PURPORTS TO PRESENT THE TRUE HISTORY OF NICHOLAS GEORGE SHADRIN, WHOSE RUSSIAN NAME WAS NIKOLAY FYODOROVICH ARTAMONOV, FROM THE TIME HE WAS A 33-YEAR OLD OFFICER OF THE SOVIET NAVY, FLED TO SWEDEN WITH A 22-YEAR OLD GIRL FRIEND IN HIS CUTTER, AND WAS GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM.

2. THROUGH INTERVIEWS WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON WHO WAS CONTACTED BY SHADRIN
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IN 1966, IT DESCRIBES HOW SHADRIN WAS RECRUITED BY THE CIA SOON AFTER HIS 1959 DEFECTION, HOW HE SETTLED IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, AND WHICH FORMER RUSSIAN CITIZENS DEBRIEFED AND WORKED WITH HIM (BRODSKY, NIKOLAY KOZLOV, SERGEI GORDEYEV). HIS WORK IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: "... BY READING SOVIET NEWSPAPRS, USING INFORMATION GIVEN HIM BY THE AMERICANS, TO ANALYZE THE SITUATION IN THE SOVIET

NAVY, TO PREPARE REPORTS AND GIVE LECTURES ON THESE THEMES TO OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN VMS."

3. HE WAS ALLEGEDLY INSTRUCTED BY THE CIA TO BEGIN CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN ORDER TO SUPPLY FALSE INFORMATION. THE ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT FROM 1966 TO DECEMBER, 1975, HE MET REGULARLY WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS, BUT DID THIS ONLY IN THE HOPE OF BEING PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION IF HE CARRIED OUT HIS ROLE AS A DOUBLE AGENT. HIS LAST MEETING WAS IN VIENNA ON DECEMBER 18, 1975, WHEN HE WAS TOLD BY HIS SOVIET CONTACT THAT HE WOULD SOON BE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME TO THE USSR. HIS SUBSEQUENT DISAPPEARANCE IS LAID AT THE DOOR OF THE CIA, WHICH ALLEGEDLY BECAME SUSPICIOUS AND FEARED THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION AND HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE DISCLOSING HIS ACTIVITIES.

4. IT IS IMPLIED THAT THE CIA DID AWAY WITH HIM, AND ADDUCES AS EVIDENCE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT MOUNT A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ABOUT HIS DISAPPEARANCE, BUT ACTUALLY TRIED TO AVOID PUBLICITY ABOUT IT, AND IT WAS DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF HIS WIFE THAT REPORTS APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPERS. IN CONCLUSION, THE ARTICLE REFERS TO HIS WIFE AND SON, WHO WERE LEFT BEHIND IN THE SOVIET UNION WHEN HE DEFECTED, AND ASSOCIATES THEM WITH ITS DEMAND TO RECEIVE AN ANSWER FROM AMERICAN AUTHORITIES:
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"WHERE IS ARTAMONOV AND WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?"

5. THE ARTICLE QUOTES FROM A MFA NOTE DELIVERED TO EMBASSY COUNSELOR CLIFFORD GROSS, DECEMBER 30, 1975, WHICH STATES THAT SHADRIN MET WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS IN VIENNA ON DECEMBER 18 AND 20, BUT THEN DISAPPEARED FROM SIGHT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PROP, PINR, UR, US, CIA, (SHADRIN, NICHOLAS)
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